

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 DPW-01 DRC-01 /121 W

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R 111000Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6459

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14187

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, KN, CG, TH

SUBJECT: TERRILL'S COMMENTS ON EAST ASIA

REF: A. CANBERRA 4986; B. BANGKOK 13889 (NOTAL)

1. WE WERE INTERESTED IN TERRILL'S COMMENTS ON THE VIEWS OF THAI LEADERS. WHILE THE RTG IS EXPLORING A BROADENED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRC, THAI LEADERSHIP REMAINS DISTURBED BY CONTINUING CHINESE SUPPORT OF THAI INSURGENTS. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIEN, IN A SEPTEMBER 10 PRESS CONFERENCE, POINTED OUT THAT "COMMUNIST CHINA" IS STILL HOLDING INCITING AND SUPPORTING TERRORIST ELEMENTS IN VARIOUS SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES TO WAGE WAR ON THEIR COUNTRYMEN.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WHO ACCOMPANIED THE THAI BADMINTON TEAM TO PEKING IN AUGUST TOOK LITTLE COMFORT FROM CHINESE ASSURANCES THAT THE THAI SHOULD NOT WORRY ABOUT THE PRC ROAD COMPLEX IN NORTH LAOS (REFTEL B). THE MAIN CHANGE IN THE RTG ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PRC HAS BEEN FROM A HANDS-OFF POSTURE TO ONE OF EXPLORATORY CORDIALITY. THE RTG REMAINS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, ABOUT CHINESE INTENTIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

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